

Message Text

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44

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 COA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 NSF-04 AEC-11

NAS-01 PM-07 COME-00 RSR-01 /085 W
----- 100556

R 151445 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8113

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

UNCLAS LISBON 2228

E. O. 11652 : N/ A

TAGS: TECH, TGEN, PO

SUBJECT : SCI DIRECTOR'S VISIT TO PORTUGAL

BEGIN SUMMARY. CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN SCI DIRECTOR HERMAN POLLACK AND PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH REVEAL PORTUGUESE IMPATIENCE TO IMPROVE THEIR LEVEL OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITY AND SPECIFIC GOP INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT OF A FEW OUTSTANDING RESEARCH CENTERS. PORTUGUESE ARE PARTICULARLY KEEN FOR A PROGRAM OF OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH BUT THEY ALSO APPEAR WILLING TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITIES OF COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AND SOLAR ENERGY. POLLACK STRESSED THE DESIRABILITY OF VISITS TO THE US BY SMALL TEAMS OF EXPERTS FOR MEETING WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR SELECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS. END SUMMARY

1. SCI DIRECTOR HERMAN POLLACK MET WITH OFFICIALS OF GOP'S NATIONAL BOARD FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH, WITH PORTUGAL'S DELEGATES TO NATO'S SCIENCE COMMITTEE, AND WITH OTHER PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS JUNE 11-13
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IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION BY PROFESSOR C. M. ALVES MARTINS, GOP'S DELEGATE TO NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE. THE MOST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WAS A THREE- HOUR SESSION AT THE RESEARCH BOARD WITH BOTH ALVES MARTINS AND JOAO SALGUEIRO, BOARD'S PRESIDENT, AND SEVERAL KEY EXPERTS, INCLUDING ADMIRAL ANIBAL ALMEIDA GRACA, DIRECTOR OF PORTUGAL'S HYDROGRAPHIC INSTITUTE. DR. EDWARD GOLDBERG OF THE SCRIPPS INSTITUTE PARTICIPATED AS ADVISOR TO POLLACK. GEORGE KOVACH, NATO DEP ASS'T SEC GEN FOR SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS, ATTENDED SESSION AS OBSERVER. MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATIONS BEING POUCHED.

2. MEETINGS REVEALED CONSIDERABLE GOP IMPATIENCE WITH PORTUGAL'S LACK OF PROGRESS IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH. DISCUSSIONS SHOWED THAT THE PORTUGUESE ARE DETERMINED TO FIND AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH US IN DEVELOPING PORTUGAL'S SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITIES, PERHAPS AS A BALANCE TO THE RELATIONSHIPS THEY NOW HAVE WITH WEST GERMANY, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM. THE PORTUGUESE ARE DISSATISFIED WITH WHAT THEY SEE AS A LACK OF PROGRESS IN THEIR SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES IN RECENT YEARS; AT FIRST THEY APPEARED TO HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE READY TO DISCUSS SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION ON BASIS OF LITTLE MORE THAN ANXIETY OF THE PORTUGUESE TO DO SO.

3. IT APPEARS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS PREPARED TO MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THREE OR MORE MAJOR (IN PORTUGAL'S EYES) RESEARCH PROJECTS, BUT DEPTH OF TALENT AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH PROJECTS IS OPEN TO QUESTION.

4. DISCUSSIONS GENERALLY SHOWED A RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF PORTUGUESE TO GET INTO SPECIFICS. AT FIRST ONLY THE IDEA OF AN OCEAN PLATFORM WAS BROUGHT UP FOR DISCUSSION, BUT LATER PORTUGUESE SHOWED WILLINGNESS TO SOUND OUT AMERICAN THINKING WITH REGARD TO SOLAR ENERGY AND COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT. POLLACK WAS TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS 24 SPECIFIC PROJECT PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED.
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5. NO AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED IN COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS BUT PORTUGUESE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR NEXT STEP IN DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS WITH U. S. IS TO SEND TEAMS OF EXPERTS TO US TO SOLICIT ADVICE OF AMERICAN EXPERTS ON SUBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF RESEARCH WHICH APPEAL TO INTER-

NATIONAL EXPERTS.

6. THE PORTUGUESE WERE URGED TO AVOID GIVING IMPRES-
SION THAT THEY SEEK AMER
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730619/aaaajbhj.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SCI
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 16 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Oct-2001 by phillir0>; APPROVED <27-Dec-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980209
Subject: SCI DIRECTOR' S VISIT TO PORTUGAL
TAGS: TECH, TGEN, PO
To: NATO
Oporto
PONTA DELGADA
SCI
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

